

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of aggregating and maintaining data in a system having at least a first and a second platform generating data, comprising:
receiving initial data from said first and said second platforms, wherein said first platform and said second platform are different from each other based on the format and index of data associated with the first and second platforms;
generating, using a computer, a staging table to store said initial data and track changes, additions, and rejections of said initial data; and
associating standardized data with said initial data using said computer.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said associating includes generating a cross-reference table correlating said standardized data with initial data from said first platform and correlating said standardized data with said initial data from said second platform.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving updated data from said first and said second platforms.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
comparing said updated data with data in said staging table.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
determining if said updated data includes new data.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said determining indicates that said updated data includes new data, the method further comprising:
setting a flag in said staging table;

comparing said updated data with said standardized data; and
determining if said standardized data should be updated to reflect said updated data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said determining indicates that said standardized data should be updated, the method further comprising:

inserting said updated data as a new record in said standardized data;
establishing a cross reference between said new record and said initial data.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
resetting said flag.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said determining indicates that said standardized data should not be updated, the method further comprising:

updating a cross-reference table correlating said standardized data with said updated data.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said determining indicates that said updated data does not include new data, the method further comprising:

determining if said updated data includes modified data;
setting a flag in said staging table to indicate that said updated data includes modified data; and
determining whether said standardized data should be updated.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said determining indicates that said standardized data should be updated, the method further comprising:

updating said standardized data; and
resetting said flag in said staging table.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said determining indicates that said standardized data should not be updated, the method further comprising:

notifying said platform that said updated data has been rejected.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for aggregating and maintaining data, comprising:

a first platform having an application program generating first input data;

a second platform having an application program generating second input data,
wherein said first platform and said second platform are different from each other based on the format and index of data associated with the first and second platforms; and

an aggregator comprising a processor, a communications device in communication with said processor, adapted to receive said first and second input data, and a memory unit in communication with said processor and storing a program, wherein said processor is operative with said program to

compare said first input data with data in a staging table, wherein said staging table is provided to store said first input data and track changes, additions, and rejections of said first input data;

determine if said first input data are different from standardized data stored in said memory unit; and

add said first input data to said standardized data if a determination is made that said first input data are new.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to:

update said standardized data if a determination is made that said first input data are modified.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to:

compare said second input data with data in a staging table;

determine if said second input data are different from standardized data stored in said memory unit; and

add said second input data to said standardized data if a determination is made that said second input data are new.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to:

update said standardized data if a determination is made that said first input data are modified.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for aggregating and maintaining data across platforms, comprising:

means for receiving initial data from a first and a second platform, wherein said first platform and said second platform are different from each other based on the format and index of data associated with the first and second platforms;

means for generating a staging table to store said initial data and track changes, additions, and rejections of said initial data; and

means for associating standardized data with said initial data.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps, comprising:

receiving initial data from a first and a second platform, wherein said first platform and said second platform are different from each other based on the format and index of data associated with the first and second platforms;

generating a staging table to store said initial data and track changes, additions, and rejections of said initial data; and

associating standardized data with said initial data.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for aggregating and maintaining data from a first and a second platform, comprising:

generating, using a computer, a staging table to store data and track changes, additions, and rejections of said data based on data from said first and said second platforms, wherein said first platform and said second platform are different from each

other based on the format and index of data associated with the first and second platforms;

- generating a set of standardized data;
- generating a cross-reference table cross-referencing data from said first and said second platforms with said standardized data;
- receiving updated data from said first and said second platforms;
- identifying new data in said updated data;
- updating said standardized data to include said new data; and
- updating said cross-reference table to include said new data.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

- identifying modified data in said updated data; and
- updating said standardized data to reflect said modified data.